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Week Ending September 25, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 26, 2005, 4 pm

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Good Week for Field Work: It was another dry week in the Keystone State with minimal rainfall reported. Dry conditions continue to put stress on crops and pastures with little relief in the forecast. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, cutting silage, and filling silos.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 25, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
49	41	10	0

Crops: Fall plowing is now 39 percent complete; 6 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-five percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves, ahead of last year's pace. Soybean conditions decreased from last week as 52 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-four percent of the corn crop is at or beyond the dented stage, and 73 percent of the crop is mature. Both crop stages are ahead of the 5-year average and last year's pace. Twenty-five percent of the crop is now harvested. The corn silage harvest is in full swing and is now 88 percent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average. Eighty-eight percent of potatoes are now harvested. Fifty-seven percent of next year's barley crop is planted and 33 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Eleven percent of winter wheat has been planted. Seventy-four percent of the 4th cutting of alfalfa is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was very good and was rated with the following: 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 31 percent excellent.

Eighty-eight percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Forty-two percent of apples are now harvested.

<u>Livestock</u>: Pasture conditions rated with the following: 31 percent very poor, 47 percent poor, 17 percent fair and 5 percent good.

U.S. as of September 18, 2005: Highlights: Abovenormal temperatures prevailed from the Great Plains eastward, exceeding 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the northern Corn Belt. Corn and soybeans matured rapidly in the Corn Belt, while moderate rainfall supported crop conditions. Hurricane Ophelia lingered just off the North Carolina coast for much of the week, bringing heavy rainfall to coastal areas, but elsewhere along the middle and southern Atlantic Coast, conditions were mostly dry. Corn: Ninety-six percent of the crop was in the dent stage or beyond, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Maturation, at 57 percent, was 17 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Meanwhile. harvest advanced to 11 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Growers had begun reaping their crop in all States, except North Dakota. Soybeans: Acreage dropping leaves advanced to 64 percent, compared with 49 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average. Meanwhile, growers had harvested 8 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Planting reached 25 percent complete, 2 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Planting had begun in all States and was ahead of the normal pace everywhere except in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 25, 2005

Notifice	Last Week Weather Summary Last Week Weather Summary April 1 - September 25, 2005												
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	Willow Grove	86	59	72	10	0.00	0	16.99	-9.09	39	3,361	561	5,103

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - It continues to be very dry. No rainfall has been received for the month of September. Most days have been 80 degrees and sunny and evenings around 60 degrees. Some rainfall is critical for alfalfa, barley, and wheat plantings. They need moisture to help the crops sprout. Crops are looking pretty good. Corn is drying quickly with silage being harvested but some that was going to be silage now is too dry and will be taken for grain. Silage yields are averaging higher than previous years. Some early soybeans are starting to be harvested with soybean leaves dropping rapidly on other soybeans. Some areas that had 7 inches of rainfall in early August in the county the soybeans were affected by the strong winds that caused the soybeans stalks to blow down and will make for interesting combining of soybeans. Double cropped soybeans are still maturing. Apples continue to be harvested. The county will have lots of visitors to the Apple Harvest Festival the first two weekends in October. The hot temperatures and sun can be causing some scalding of apples.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Early corn is yielding well and drying down nicely. Longer season corn has not yielded quite as well due to lack of moisture and heat during pollination. Most are not planting any wheat until we get some rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Many small streams are dry or have little flow. The county continues to be very dry.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - At the Bloomsburg Fair a grower stated that only harvesting 25 bushel corn. This is a tough year in some areas.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another good field week in the county. Much of the corn has been harvested for corn silage and some farmers have planted rye for a fall cover crop on these fields. Yield reports have been better than expected. Only a few areas in the county suffered from lack of rain.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Jim Collom - The rainfall that the weatherman promised hasn't materialized yet. Second crop beans are starting to turn. They are looking pretty rough.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul Craig (EXT) - Drought conditions continue to get worse. Silage harvest nearly completed. Crop is drying down rapidly. Corn grain harvest is proceeding rapidly. Busy time in the fields but everyone is looking forward to some moisture from Rita.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are very happy with quality and yields from corn silage. The corn crop for the most part matured much earlier than normal. Soybeans appear to be in excellent condition. Due to short pasture use, many farmers are supplementing winter feed.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - Corn and soybeans continue to dry down extremely fast. Very dry soil conditions.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) -

Soybean harvest started. Corn silage harvest is winding down. Corn grain is drying down fast and harvest is in full swing. Some cover crops are emerging, but still need moisture for germination. Tobacco harvest is almost complete.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Since school started, only 0.5 inch of rain. Tough to get fall-seedings of alfalfa, pastures and cover crops started. Corn harvest is going strong with favorable yields and moisture content. Some beans are harvested too.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) -

Another unseasonably warm and dry week. Corn moisture is around 20 percent in fields that are being harvested. Soybeans are getting close to harvest. Some wheat and rye has been planted, but many are waiting for a little moisture.

PERRY COUNTY, David Swartz (EXT) - Extremely dry weather has greatly advanced crop harvest. Some producers, especially those depending on custom harvesters, could not get their corn harvested for silage before it dried to the point of being too dry for silage. Corn producers are now shelling full season varieties and placing the corn in bin storage without putting it through a dryer. There has been no fall flush of pasture grass.

SNYDER COUNTY, William Sheaffer - It has been another dry week. The corn harvest is beginning with reported yields being better than expected in spite of the hot dry weather. The barley and wheat is being planted, and some fields are showing signs of emergence. The main activities were planting wheat and barley, silo filling, harvesting corn and making machinery repairs.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Livestock producers are expressing concern over the production of spring fed water sources. The water supplies are not recovering in a timely manner according to people in the county.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Another week with no rain. Because of continued warm, dry conditions, some early-April planted corn is already being harvested as dry shelled corn with above average yields being reported. Later plantings will not do as well. Grass growth has almost stopped requiring increased feeding of livestock on pasture.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 25, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	
Fall plowing	39	30	33	
Corn, dent	94	92	84	
Corn, mature	73	58	43	
Corn, harvested	25	22	15	
Corn silage, harvested	88	73	63	
Barley, planted	57	41	31	
Barley, emerged	33	13	11	
Wheat, planted	19	14	14	
Potatoes, harvested	88	63	62	
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	74	44	54	
Apples, harvested	42	67	49	
Grapes, harvested	25	28	26	

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 25, 2005

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Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	6	12	31	39	12
Soybeans	3	10	35	39	13
Quality of hay made	1	2	23	43	31
Pasture	31	47	17	5	0
Apples	2	2	8	32	56

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

National Agricultural Statistics Service Pennsylvania Field Office 2301 M Cameron St Room G-19 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

United States Department of Agriculture